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Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 /088 W
---------- 053221
R 092050Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4030
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26332

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, XF XT
SUBJECT: PLO SEEKS TO IMPROVE STATUS

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE ME SERVANT TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 8 THAT KHALED EL HASSAN, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PLO, HAD VISITED PARIS THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND BEEN RECEIVED BY QUAI ME DIRECTOR CERLES. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, ACCORDING TO SERVANT, WAS TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF PLO REPRESENTATION IN FRANCE. AT PRESENT, IZ AL-DIN AL-QALAK, A PALESTINIAN WHO IS ON THE STAFF OF THE
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PARIS OFFICE OF THE ARAB LEAGUE, WHICH ITSELF IS UNDER

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THE UMBRELLA OF THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY, IS THE SOLE PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN FRANCE. HASSAN SUGGESTED THAT A PLO INFORMATION OR COMMERCIAL OFFICE BE PERMITTED TO OPEN IN FRANCE. SERVANT WAS VAGUE ABOUT THE FRENCH REPLY TO HASSAN, BUT COMMENTED THAT THE PLO DOES NOT REPRESENT A STATE NOR CONTROL TERRITORY, AND THUS ITS CASE IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE PRG WHEN THE FRENCH ALLOWED IT TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE HERE. THE ONLY COMMERCE IN WHICH THE PLO IS INTERESTED, SERVANT ADDED, IS ARMS, AND FRANCE DOES NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN SUCH TRADE.

2. SERVANT INDICATED THAT HASSAN ALSO HAD VISITED LONDON AND BONN. HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT THE UK WOULD RESIST PRESSURES TO OPEN A PLO OFFICE, BUT THOUGHT THE GERMANS WERE WOBBLY. HE NOTED THAT SWITZERLAND RECENTLY ALLOWED THE PLO TO ESTABLISH A LIAISON OFFICE WITH THE UN IN GENEVA, THAT JAPAN HAD PERMITTED THE OPENING OF AN OFFICE IN TOKYO AND THAT THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN TOLD AUSTRALIA WILL SOON ACT SIMILARLY. HE INTIMATED THAT SUCH UPGRADING OF THE PLO BY MODERATE NATIONS WAS PUTTING GREAT PRESSURE ON THE FRENCH.

3. FINALLY, SERVANT WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER THE PLO MAY ONCE AGAIN BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING A PALESTINIAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. AFTER THE LATEST SINAI AGREEMENT AND IN LIGHT OF THE PLO'S LOW INTERNA-TIONAL STATUS COMPARED TO A YEAR AGO, "MODERATES" LIKE ARAFAT MAY BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN HOLD THE PLO TOGETHER IS BY SOME SUCH DRAMATIC ACTION, SERVANT SAID. HE OFFERED NO EVIDENCE TO BACK HIS SPECULATION, HOWEVER,

4. COMMENT: AN UPGRADING OF THE PLO REPRESENTATION HERE APPEARS TO BE ONLY A QUESTION OF TIME.
RUSH

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To: STATE
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